



WEATHER AND CROPS

May 12, 2008

Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets
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Week Ending, May 11, 2008

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WEATHER: Temperatures averaged mostly below normal. Lows dipped below freezing in several areas. Rainfall was below average in nearly all regions. Amounts ranged from none in Albany to almost an inch in New York City. This seasons Growing Degree Days total from 34 to 141 above normal. Totals for the week ranged from 5 to 86.

CROPS: Cool, dry weather conditions throughout the state pushed planting progress forward. There were 5.1 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 1 percent very short, 8 percent short, 83 percent adequate, and 8 percent surplus. Oat condition was 9 percent fair, 84 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. Winter wheat was rated as 14 percent fair, 61 percent good, and 25 percent excellent. Corn for grain was 35 percent planted compared with 32 percent last year and a five year average of 32 percent. Eighty-seven percent of the oats were planted compared with 70 percent last year and 74 percent over the last five years. Potatoes reached 43 percent planted compared with 40 percent last year and 43 percent over the last five years. Soybeans were 12 percent planted compared with 8 percent last year and a five year average of 7 percent. The following are reports from across the state: Moisture and cool conditions in Sullivan County slowed fieldwork resulting in no corn planting and limited tillage opportunities. Chenango County had a good week for fieldwork and the crops were looking good. Ontario County was still busy with the fields being prepared and planted. Some areas of Schuler County experienced frost on May 5. It was a great week for all fieldwork in Dutchess County. Fields dried out from the previous week's rain in Washington County so that tillage and corn planting could continue. Fieldwork continued to progress in Herkimer County, but the cool weather has slowed growth or germination. St. Lawrence County had lots of fieldwork going on around the county. Jefferson County received some frost last week, but no damage was reported.

FRUIT: Apples were at 30 percent petal fall, in line with average progress. Peaches were at 55 percent petal fall and sweet cherries were at 75 percent petal fall, both well above normal. Pears were at 30 percent petal fall, slightly below average. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, inland sites saw petal fall in peaches and sweet cherries, while apples and tart cherries were in bloom. In Madison County, apples were almost at petal fall stage. Frost in the Hudson Valley affected cherries and plums, and potentially damaged other fruits as well. In the Finger Lakes region, grape shoot growth was close to 4 inches. Grapes in the western end of the region were affected by the cold temperatures, with some reports of 75 percent to 95 percent bud damage. In the Chautauqua region, grape buds were progressing well, with 3 inch shoots. On Long Island, all varieties were in bud break or beyond. Chardonnay grapes were at 1-3" shoots.

VEGETABLE: Cooler weather along with occasional frost hasn't slowed crops down to much. Madison County reported that onions are looking good but needs rain and warmer weather and that cabbage will begin planting during the week. Saratoga County claims early sweet corn and other vegetables were being planted. Sweet corn is 38 percent planted, up from 20 percent previously. Onions were up to 61 percent planted, with Orange County near 70 percent planted. Snap beans were at 14 percent along with cabbage at 31 percent, up from 18 percent.

LIVESTOCK: Pastures continue to green across the state. Livestock were beginning to move back onto pasture as growth allows. Pasture conditions across most of the state were estimated to be in good condition. Pasture conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 50 percent good, and 25 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, May 11, 2008

Station	Temperature (°F)				Growing Degree Days Base 50° ^{1/}			Precipitation (Inches) ^{1/}				
	High	Low	Avg	Dep. from Norm	Week	Season	Dep. from Norm	Week	Dep. from Norm	Season	Dep. from Norm	
<u>Hudson Valley</u>												
Albany	73	33	56	+2	47	207	+110	0.00	-0.76	3.57	-0.59	
Glens Falls	74	29	52	-2	21	127	+57	0.01	-0.78	4.03	-0.19	
Poughkeepsie	77	38	57	+2	50	233	+111	0.72	-0.26	4.97	-0.08	
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>												
Boonville	66	31	48	-3	5	97	+49	0.35	-0.63	5.50	-0.68	
<u>Champlain Valley</u>												
Plattsburgh	74	33	52	-1	19	105	+34	0.09	-0.54	3.13	-0.67	
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>												
Canton	69	32	50	-3	12	141	+81	0.29	-0.35	3.10	-0.81	
Massena	68	31	51	-3	16	130	+61	0.15	-0.41	2.49	-1.04	
<u>Great Lakes</u>												
Buffalo	73	36	53	-2	29	231	+141	0.26	-0.44	2.93	-1.02	
Wales	74	30	50	-3	15	139	+78	0.35	-0.42	2.70	-2.32	
Niagara Falls	74	33	52	-3	25	185	+85	0.34	-0.30	2.98	-1.21	
Rochester	77	38	54	-2	31	244	+139	0.26	-0.30	2.64	-0.90	
Watertown	73	33	50	-3	16	151	+88	0.28	-0.28	4.20	+0.79	
<u>Central Lakes</u>												
Dansville	78	34	52	+3	21	183	+90	0.13	-0.50	2.25	-1.56	
Geneva	74	36	52	-3	20	163	+77	0.13	-0.50	3.19	-0.75	
Honeoye	78	33	51	-3	19	175	+87	0.75	+0.13	2.36	-1.57	
Ithaca	76	32	51	-2	21	153	+82	0.10	-0.60	3.02	-1.00	
Penn Yan	77	37	54	+1	33	216	+130	0.05	-0.58	2.46	-1.48	
Syracuse	77	34	53	-3	27	210	+107	0.11	-0.60	4.02	-0.46	
Warsaw	73	33	49	-3	14	143	+92	0.28	-0.49	2.54	-2.05	
<u>Western Plateau</u>												
Angelica	74	28	49	-2	9	98	+48	0.21	-0.38	3.23	-0.50	
Elmira	78	30	53	-1	29	173	+93	0.07	-0.63	3.66	-0.12	
Franklinville	75	27	49	-1	11	98	+60	0.29	-0.48	3.29	-1.21	
Jamestown	75	30	52	+2	23	132	+78	0.24	-0.60	3.26	-1.90	
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>												
Binghamton	75	35	53	-1	29	181	+106	0.11	-0.63	3.20	-1.10	
Cobleskill	73	30	51	-3	18	111	+46	0.11	-0.66	3.16	-1.35	
Morrisville	70	32	50	-3	13	121	+61	0.30	-0.50	3.89	-0.46	
Norwich	72	32	51	-3	13	109	+41	0.22	-0.62	2.93	-1.75	
Oneonta	74	34	55	+4	33	163	+106	0.04	-0.94	3.17	-1.84	
<u>Coastal</u>												
Bridgehamton	76	38	57	+4	51	124	+53	0.92	+0.04	4.03	-1.34	
New York	77	50	62	+3	86	266	+77	0.99	+0.10	4.33	-0.88	

^{1/} Season accumulations are for April 1st to date. Weekly accumulations are through 7:00 AM Sunday Morning

The information contained in this weekly release is obtained in cooperation with Cornell Cooperative Extension, USDA Farm Service Agency, the National Weather Service, Agricultural Weather Information Service and other knowledgeable persons associated with New York agriculture. Their cooperation is greatly appreciated.

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